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First Gulf of Mexico Record of *Zu cristatus* (Bonnelli) (Pisces: Trachypteridae)

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**FIRST GULF OF MEXICO
RECORD OF *Zu cristatus*
(BONNELLI) (PISCES:
TRACHYPTERIDAE)**

A scalloped ribbonfish, *Zu cristatus* (Bonnelli), (Fig. 1) was collected on March 30, 1981 by Mr. Elmer Wheeler of Coden, Alabama. Using oyster tongs he captured the fish while it was swimming on the surface at the south end of Portersville Bay between Cat Island and Barron Point (30° 18.1'N, 88° 12.1'W). The fish has been deposited in the Ichthyological Museum of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL 17184), Ocean Springs, Mississippi and represents the first collection of scalloped ribbonfish in the Gulf of Mexico.

Meristic data taken from this 316 mm SL specimen are given below.

dorsal - 6+129
anal - absent

pectoral - 11
pelvic - 6

Fin ray counts agree with those listed by Miller and Lea (1972).

Scalloped ribbonfish are pelagic, circumtropical fish with a habitat which ranges from shallow water to a depth of 90 m (Briggs, 1960). Previous specimens have been collected from the mid-Atlantic Ocean (Backus *et al.*, 1965), Mediterranean Sea and both western and eastern Pacific Ocean (Fitch, 1964).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Dr. C.E. Dawson for verification of identification and distribution of the scalloped ribbonfish and for photographing the specimen.

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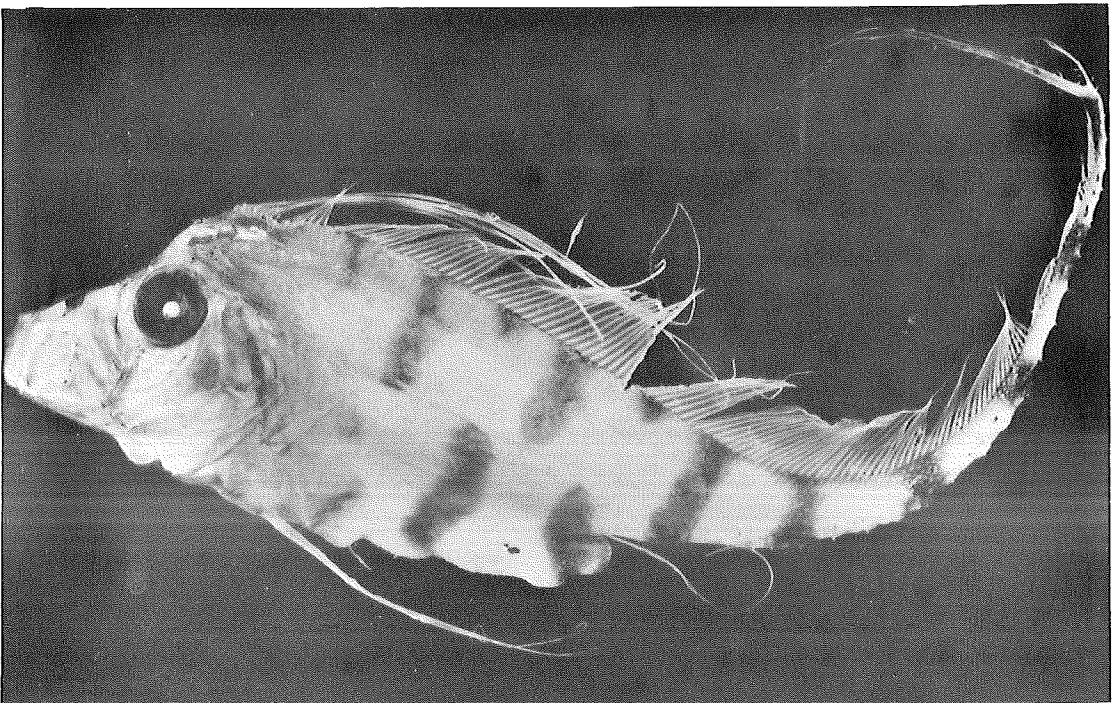


Figure 1. Scalloped ribbonfish, *Zu cristatus* (Bonnelli), 316 mm SL captured by Elmer Wheeler in Portersville Bay, Alabama, March 30, 1981. Photograph by C.E. Dawson.

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